



DATE: **DECEMBER 17, 2003**

SUBJECT: **NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND INTENT TO ADOPT AN INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED
NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE PROPOSED PUBLIC PARK IMPROVEMENTS
PROJECT**

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has directed the preparation of and intends to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed project, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and State CEQA Guidelines. DPR is the lead agency for the proposed project under CEQA.

Project Location: Berkeley Meadow and Brickyard
Eastshore State Park
Alameda County, California

Description of the Proposed Project:

Berkeley Meadow Area: Conduct hazardous material study and conduct indicated remediation, remove debris, enhance seasonal wetlands, remove selected nonnative plants, revegetate with native plants, place fill in upland areas to improve drainage and to support trail system, and install fencing along perimeter and interior trails. Enhance the upland habitat through phased removal of mature exotic trees and immature nonnative trees, replant upland areas with locally native species, establish a fenced trail system, and designate a large, fenced, central area as "authorized access only" to protect sensitive habitat and restoration areas. Install interpretive panels, regulatory signage, and entry monument.

Brickyard Area: Conduct a hazardous materials survey and facilities concept study, including a special status species survey, to determine appropriate facilities and use for the Brickyard. Prepare a development and facilities management plan for the introduction of recreation and visitor facilities to the Brickyard area. Operations to be considered for the plan will include park operations/visitor center; concessions such as a café/restaurant/deli and recreational equipment; restrooms; landscaping and recreational space, such as turf areas, picnic facilities, and seating; trails, such as a waterfront promenade along the west side of the Brickyard Spit to a vista point, an internal trail system for the area with the appropriate connections to external trails; a bird blind near the outlet of Strawberry Creek; parking for up to 200 cars; interpretive panels and displays; and entry monument signs. Install a modular office building, with utilities and parking. Install benches, tables, and entrance monument.

Public Review Period:

The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration is being circulated for public review and comment for a period of 30 days, beginning December 17, 2003. Questions regarding project specifics should be directed to Stuart Hong, Project Manager, at (916) 445-8760.

Your views and comments on this project are welcomed. Written comments regarding this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration should be submitted to the following address:

Gail Sevens
California Department of Parks and Recreation
Northern Service Center
One Capital Mall, Suite 500
Sacramento, California 95814
FAX: (916) 445-9100
Email: gsevr@parks.ca.gov

Submissions must be postmarked or received by fax or email no later than January 16, 2004. The originals of any faxed document must be received by regular mail within ten working days following the deadline for comments, along with proof of successful fax transmission. Email or fax submissions must include a full name and address.

Copies of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration may be reviewed at the following locations during normal business hours:

- Northern Service Center
California Department of Parks & Recreation
One Capitol Mall - Suite 410
Sacramento, California 95814
- California Department of Parks & Recreation
Diablo Vista District Headquarters
363 Third Street West
Sonoma, California 95476
- Bay Sector Office
California Department of Parks & Recreation
96 Mitchell Canyon Road
Clayton, California 94517
- Berkeley Public Library
1125 University Avenue
Berkeley, California 94702
- Richmond Public Library Main Branch
325 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond, California 94804
- Albany Library
1247 Marin Ave.
Albany, California 94706
- Oakland Public Library
Golden Gate Branch
5606 San Pablo Avenue
Oakland, California 94608
- California Department of Parks & Recreation website
http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=981